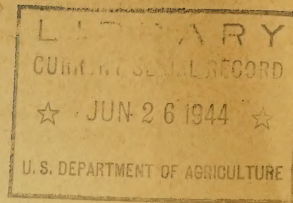


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Electrification Administration  
St. Louis 2, Missouri



May 4, 1944

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

REA IS NINE YEARS OLD

The Rural Electrification Administration this month completes its ninth year of operation. REA was established by executive order on May 11, 1935 to bring electricity to unserved rural establishments. In the following year, Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act under which REA now operates.

During these nine years, REA has loaned funds to 800 farmer-owned cooperatives, 53 public bodies, and 20 privately-owned utilities. These borrowers now operate nearly 400,000 miles of lines serving more than 1,000,000 farms and other rural consumers in 46 states, Alaska and the Virgin Islands.

By April 1, 1944, REA had advanced \$382,633,185 as loans to its borrowers. The borrowers had made payments of principal and interest totalling \$66,072,974, including \$16,131,974 of principal paid in advance of the due dates specified in the REA loan contracts. These payments are gratifying because they indicate a trend toward increasing financial stability of borrowers as a whole. REA loans, usually made for a period of 25 years, are retired with graduated payments that reach a maximum at the beginning of the eighth year. Because the REA borrowers have reached an average age of only four years, very few are yet required to make maximum payments on loans. Total delinquencies of the REA borrowers, representing accounts more than 30 days overdue, amounted to \$263,445 on April 1, 1944, about one-half of 1% of the amount due and payable.

The 1940 census showed 7,000,000 farm and non-farm rural dwellings in the United States without electricity. It is estimated that as many as 5,000,000 of these homes should be considered as potential consumers to be reached after the war. Meanwhile REA borrowers will continue to extend service, wherever possible, under War Production Board regulations, to farms that can use electric power in wartime food production. Seventy-three thousand new farms were approved for connections to REA-financed lines in 1943 under WPB farm service connection regulations.

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WPB FARM CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS

The War Production Board recently announced that increased military demand for radio and radar transformers had made it necessary to limit the production of distribution transformers, and that this had, in turn, made it necessary to amend WPB regulations to restrict new service connections in urban and rural areas.

Under the amended regulations, "estimated production of livestock" may no longer be used in computing the number of animal units. Only "livestock on hand" may be used, but livestock already contracted for may be counted, if the farmer can show his County Agricultural Conservation Committee a written agreement for delivery. Rural extensions over 5000 feet still require WPB approval. Each consumer whose livestock is counted in the justification for such an extension must have on hand at least ten milk cows or 750 laying hens. Other farms having at least five animal units may also apply for service from the extension.

An extension up to 500 feet, including secondary and service drop, may be built to serve a domestic consumer, provided no primary line or transformer installation is required. This type of service connection can be made without regard to animal units. Under orders U-1-c and U-1-f, the length of the extension will not include wire used in under building existing lines in order to reach a transformer. Thus a domestic consumer 500 feet from an existing line could be served even though it were necessary to underbuild one or two spans to reach a transformer.

Although the new WPB requirements are higher, your Cooperative will continue to extend service wherever possible to farms having the required number of animal units and that are able to use electric power in wartime food production. Farmers living near our lines who desire service should get in touch with the co-op office. We will be glad to give full details on the WPB requirements. If you now lack the required animal units, you may be able to secure service by making a small increase in the number of animals on your farm.

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## REPAIR SERVICES NEEDED

Every farmer knows that war conditions have sometimes made it difficult to obtain repair parts or services for machinery. A survey conducted for the Office of Civilian Requirements, War Production Board, and the War Food Administration, has shown that farmers throughout the nation consider machinery repair one of their chief worries this year. For example, it was found that 37 out of every 100 farmers who needed parts or service for pressure water systems had trouble in filling these needs.

Repair parts are expected to be more plentiful, according to War Food officials -- although delays may be experienced when parts are not ordered far enough ahead of time. Repair services will be harder to obtain, however, and that's where some of our electrified farms can be of help. With fewer competent mechanics available to rural areas than last year, farmers may have to do more of their repair work themselves. Scheduling repair work with regular service places as far in advance as possible will help some; another partial solution to this problem is the sharing of repair tools, electric welders and other facilities.

If you have electric tools that can accommodate repair work for one or more other farmers, why not let it be known in your neighborhood or let us know so that we can tell others? Perhaps you can make an arrangement to do some of this extra repair work for compensation, using skills which other farmers in the neighborhood may not have acquired. This is the sort of war service that really counts.

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## SUMMER CHICKS GROW FASTER WITH NIGHT LIGHTS

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that chicks raised under night lights during hot weather at its Southwest Poultry Experiment Station in Arizona weighed 10 to 20 percent more at the end of the first 12 weeks. Rhode Island Red and White Leghorn chicks were used in the experiments. Night illumination was provided by one 40-watt bulb for each 144 square feet of floor space.

The experiments showed that high daytime temperatures, common in Arizona, resulted in chicks eating less and making slower growth. Chicks hatched in hot weather, however, grew faster when electric lighting gave them a chance to eat at night when it was cooler. The experiments also showed that chicks did about as well under the more economical midnight to dawn lighting, as did chicks having lights all night. But use of lights after the age of 12 weeks, either all night or from midnight to daylight, had little effect on the age or weight of pullets when they first laid, nor did it influence the average weight of their first 10 eggs.

Can any of our members relate their personal experiences with lights on growing chicks?

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## SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

One of our members who attended our annual meeting has asked us to publish the following. We think it is very worth while and hope that the members to whom it is directed will follow his suggestion.

"A dark spot in the operating statement is the consumer penalties in the amount of \$717.73. What a lot of electricity this would buy and what a lot of work it would do. At 8 3/4 cents per kwh, the penalties would pay for 8,202 kwh; 14,354 kwh at 5 cents; 28,708 kwh at 2 1/2 cents, and 47,846 kwh at 1 1/2 cents. The penalties also would pay the average electric bill of \$4.14 for 173 members for one month. All of this amount was wasted by members who did not have their remittance in by the 15th of the month. Our meters should be read on time, too. Why not read our meters on the 28th of each month and get the cards to the Choptank Electric Cooperative on time?" (From newsletter of Choptank Electric Cooperative, Denton, Maryland)

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Mr. William Steuber, of Boyd, was telling us how they converted a hand lawn mower into an electrically-operated one. He says it's very simple to do and would be glad to tell anyone how to set the small motor on and attach it to the wheel of the lawn mower by a belt. (From newsletter of Wasco Electric Cooperative, The Dallas, Oregon.)

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Mr. E. P. Menke, who lives in Waller County south of Hempstead, tells us that on almost every occasion in the past two years when his electric service was interrupted, he sent one of his men to patrol all lines on his property. This is cooperation deluxe, and if every member on the cooperative would do the same thing it would be possible to limit the time of interrupted service to a maximum of five or six hours. (From newsletter of San Bernard Electric Cooperative, Bellville, Texas.)